

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for high velocity hydroforming a ~~vehicle frame~~ member, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing a die having an internal die cavity;
- providing a tubular member;
- positioning said tubular member within said die cavity;
- filling said tubular member with a fluid; and
- creating a shock wave within said fluid by rapidly advancing a piston within a fluid cylinder in communication with said fluid to expand said tubular member to conform to the shape of the die cavity, thereby forming a ~~vehicle frame~~ member.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further including the step of feeding an end of said tubular member into said die cavity during the expansion of said tubular member.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said shock wave is created by discharging an electric arc within said fluid.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~, wherein said piston is advanced by an electromagnetic field.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a member ~~vehicle frame side rail~~ comprising the steps of:

- providing a die having an internal die cavity;
- providing a tubular member having an end;
- positioning said tubular member within said die cavity;
- filling said tubular member with a fluid;

e. ~~creating~~ ~~discharging an electric arc within said fluid to create~~ a shock wave within said fluid, thereby expanding said tubular member to conform to the shape of the die cavity; and

f. feeding said end of said tubular member into said die cavity during the expansion of said tubular member to maintain a generally constant wall thickness.

7. (New) The method of Claim 6, wherein said shock wave is created by discharging an electric arc within said fluid.

8. (New) A method for manufacturing a vehicle frame assembly comprising the steps of:

a. providing a first vehicle frame member by (1) providing a die having an internal die cavity; (2) providing a tubular member; (3) positioning the tubular member within the die cavity; (4) filling the tubular member with a fluid; and (5) creating a shock wave within said fluid to expand the tubular member to conform to the shape of the die cavity, thereby forming the first vehicle frame member;

b. providing second, third, and fourth vehicle frame members; and

c. securing the first, second, third, and fourth vehicle frame members together to form a vehicle frame assembly.

9. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein said step (a) is performed by rapidly advancing a piston within a fluid cylinder in communication with the fluid to create the shock wave.

10. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the piston is advanced by an electromagnetic field.

11. (New) The method of Claim 8 wherein said step (a) is performed by discharging an electric arc within the fluid to create the shock wave.

12. (New) The method of Claim 8 wherein said step (a) is performed by feeding an end of the tubular member into the die cavity during the expansion of the tubular member.